

Hearing Called On Transfer of 5 White Schools

Board Defers Action
On Plan to Restore
Full Classes for 3,301

By Coit Hendley, Jr.

A public hearing on whether the Board of Education should transfer five white schools to colored pupils to relieve overcrowded conditions and close down four other schools for economic reasons, is scheduled for 1 p.m. next Wednesday at the Franklin Administration Building.

The majority of the board members were ready to accept School Supt. Hobart M. Corning's recommendations for these moves yesterday until a group of citizens offered unexpected opposition. The transfers would place 3,301 of the 6,925 pupils now on part-time instruction back of a full-time schedule.

Temporary Transfers.

Dr. Corning emphasized that the transfers would be temporary and would not affect the long-range building program of the School Board.

But in view of the disagreement of the citizens who had come to the meeting at Franklin Administration Building—and the firm opposition to "hasty action" by Board Member Adelbert W. Lee—action was withheld until after the action committee on buildings and grounds could hold the special meeting Wednesday at Franklin Administration Building. A full board meeting will follow that same day to act.

The proposed changes are: The Brown Elementary School, Nineteenth street and Benning road N.E., and the Webb Elementary School, Fifteenth and Rosedale streets N.E., to be transferred to colored pupils to reduce part-time instruction at the Browne Junior High School.

An elementary school unit, to be known as the Eastern Elementary School, to be established at Eastern High School for the 472 white pupils attending these two schools. This will allow 1,223 of the 1,836 pupils at Browne to go to full-time instruction, leaving 613 still on part-time classes.

Hayes School Transfer. The Hayes Elementary School, Fifth and K streets N.E., to be transferred to colored pupils. This move will reduce part-time classes at Crumwell, Payne and Cook elementary schools. Most of the 156 white pupils at Hayes would be sent to Blair Elementary School, two blocks away, and others at Ludlow, Madison and Wheatley elementary schools.

The Bowen Elementary School, Third and K streets S.W., to be turned over to colored pupils to reduce part-time classes at Randall Junior High School. The 224 white pupils would be sent to a new elementary unit at the Jefferson Junior High and to the Lincoln and Madison Fairbrother elementary schools.

The Lenox Occupational School, Fifth street, near G street S.E., to be turned over to colored pupils to relieve part-time instruction at Van Ness and Bell elementary schools and to eliminate the transfer use of Lincoln Elementary School, which is for colored children. One of the three classes, totaling 64 pupils, at Lenox would be sent to the Buchanan elementary school, Thirteenth and E streets S.E., and the other two to either the Bryan elementary school or the Cranch elementary school.

Would Close Lincoln School. The Lincoln elementary school, Second and C streets S.E., to be closed and turned over to the Commissioners. This school has an enrollment of 51 colored pupils but has a capacity for 125. It is recommended for abandonment in 1948 when it became obsolete.

The Hamilton Cabinet Shop, 1611 Bladensburg road N.E., to be closed down and the Dent elementary school, Second street, and South Carolina avenue S.E., used for the repair shop for school furniture. The 94 white pupils now attending Dent would be sent to Brent elementary school, Third and D streets S.E., three blocks away.

The Hilton elementary school, Sixth street, near B street N.E., to be closed and the 183 white pupils sent to the Peabody elementary school, one block away.

The Corcoran elementary school, Twenty-eighth street near M street N.W., to be closed and used for storage space. The 136 white pupils would be reassigned to the Hyde and Jackson elementary schools.

Corning Explains Plan. Dr. Corning explained his recommendations this way: "The immediate reduction in part-time instruction wherever possible through the reassignment of school facilities is imperative if the best interests of the children and the community are to be served. The recommended transfers . . . are to be made for the sole purpose of making fulltime instruction immediately available to a large number of the school children through a wider use of existing school buildings, pending construction of buildings already assured . . ."

But, Alfred D. Calvert, president of the Lincoln Park Citizens' Association, disagreed. He told the board: "Not that we want to deprive Negro children of education, but we are against anything which will take schools away from us. The word temporary means nothing."

Colored Citizens Object. A number of colored citizens also spoke against the transfers, basing their objections on the fact that the schools being shifted were old and on the general principle that they were against any such transfers. They were Elmer C. House, representing the Browne Parent-Teacher Association and the Northeast Boundary Civic Association, and Mrs. Phoebe Nelson of the Kingman Park Civic Association.

Already on record against the transfers are the Federation of Civic Associations and the Central Northeast Civic Association.

Mrs. Philip Sidney Smith, chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the board, said the District organizations that wish to present views on the proposals may do so at the Wednesday meeting. Representatives of such organizations should notify the Board of

Education of their intent to appear and present to the board a written copy of their testimony at least 24 hours before the hearing, she added.

In another action the board instructed its committee on community use of buildings and grounds to bring in a report setting a "definite policy" on the use of school property by mixed groups of white and colored persons.

Policy Held Not Clear. Dr. Corning asked for this determination of policy, saying the school officials were on the spot in trying to rule in controversial situations because the policy of the board was not established clearly. C. Melvin Sharpe, chairman of the committee, said he would call a meeting in the near future.

The matter arose when Mrs. James W. Williams brought up the Junior Board of Commerce's "Voice of Democracy" speaking contest. The Junior Board voted to hold the finals of the contest at Pierce Hall on November 13 or 14 to avoid a possible refusal of use of a school auditorium.

Informal inquiries had been made of school officials about use of a school auditorium. Both colored and white boys and girls from the high schools will compete in the finals of the contest.

School Officials Again Clear Textbook Held Un-American by VFW

A report of school officials clearing the civic textbook, "Building Citizenship" by R. O. Hughes, of charges made by the District department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that it teaches un-American ideas was in the hands of the Board of Education today.

School Supt. Hobart M. Corning yesterday submitted to the board a report defending the book. The text had been cleared in a similar report to the board last June 4 after charges by Board Member Adelbert W. Lee. The board accepted the report.

VFW Fails to Appear. The report was prepared for Dr. Corning by George J. Jones and William M. Brewer, heads of the history department in the public schools. "It is an excellent and wholesome text," they said.

Members of the VFW Un-American Activities Committee, headed by Charles S. Sullivan, Jr., had requested the board to present their charges before the board. But, when the board told the committee they could have 20 minutes to present its case orally and submit any written documents it desired, the VFW refused to appear.

Dr. Corning's report was based on the contention that the VFW committee had taken from the text certain passages, which alone gave a wrong impression of the purpose of the book.

17 Pages Involved. "A careful search reveals 17 pages of the book in which un-American ideas or communism is mentioned. We do not think that looms very large in a book of over 700 pages, especially when the majority of those references are of such a minor and incidental character that they are not even cited in the index of the book," the report said.

The report said that several suggestions for changes in sentences have been forwarded to the author. But the majority of the criticisms do not need even that much action since further analysis does not support them as valid criticisms when the context of the quoted passages or their perspective in the book as a whole is considered, the report continued.

13 Passages Cited. The VFW cited 13 passages in making their charges. Each is answered in the report. Two quotations from immigrants unfavorable in their reaction to their experience in America caused the VFW to say: "There are no statements in the book from immigrants praising the United States." The report answered, saying that the VFW committee gave an erroneous impression that this portion of the book is lacking in balance. To the contrary, most of the section gives pictures of immigrants who were successfully Americanized and whose quotations were included to warn that some of these immigrants have been mistreated.

The VFW said a section comparing the cost of battleships to the cost of schools was "calculated to prejudice pupils against national defense." The report answered: "There is nothing . . . to suggest that the question was calculated for any such purpose. The high cost of war and the preparation for war as compared with the cost of education spend on many constructive works of peace is a fact we cannot escape."

Religious Issue Raised. Two sentences referring to belief in future punishment or reward as a motive for good living on earth were called contrary to the teachings of the Christian and Jewish faith by the VFW. The school report said it was "unfortunate" these sentences were included because they touch on a religious subject on which people would differ strongly but any bad effect is overshadowed by the whole-some tone of the rest of the 10 pages about religious topics.

The VFW said they "failed to understand why so much emphasis is laid on Russia and why a child of 14 years of age is asked if he would like to live under a Communist form of government, bearing in mind this last question is not answered in the text but is to be discussed in the classroom."

Lack of Confidence Seen. The report answered: "We have already referred to the unwillingness, shown in other criticisms, to let the pupils think about and discuss under the guidance of teachers something which does not have its authoritative answer given in the book. It shows a strange lack of confidence in our own way of life, as well as in the teachers and pupils in our schools, when criticisms so often recur to the inference that our pupils are in a serious danger of arriving at an un-American answer to such questions as a part of their school work. . . ."

"We have enough confidence in our institutions and our people to conclude that the pupils, discussing the question of living under communism, would end with a strengthened conclusion that they are better off with the American system in spite of all the opposing propaganda which our schools can fortify them against, since it is impossible to isolate them from seeing and hearing some of it eventually."

Hoover Says FBI Has No Official Subversive List

Lawyers' Guild Gets
Letter After Protest
Stirred by Newell

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover today made public a letter to Robert J. Silberman, executive secretary of the National Lawyers' Guild, in which he stated the FBI has "neither prepared nor published any so-called subversive list nor furnished any such list to any person or organization."

Mr. Silberman had written Attorney General Clark protesting against the issuance of any such lists and, particularly, against the asserted inclusion of the guild on one of them.

In his letter, Mr. Silberman had referred to a news article in The Star of last Monday, which quoted Clifford H. Newell, past president of the Federation of Citizens' Associations, as having said the guild was among questionable groups on an FBI list. Mr. Silberman requested a copy of the list.

List Is Denied. "Your thought that we might have prepared such a list is erroneous," Mr. Hoover wrote in reply. "This bureau is a fact-finding organization, and I want you to know that the Attorney General, not this bureau, makes all necessary legal decisions on the basis of factual information furnished as a result of our investigations."

Mr. Hoover stated Mr. Silberman could have ascertained this by an inquiry of him and continued:

"You have commented that the President's Committee on Civil Rights has declared that a 'state of near-hysteria now threatens to inhibit the freedom of genuine democrats.' If you and your organization are yourselves becoming hysterical over news items without first making an attempt to ascertain the true facts, you are contributing to any state of 'near-hysteria' which might afflict citizens who have not had the benefit of training in factual analysis and in the interpretation of facts according to law."

List Not Seen by Newell.

Told Mr. Hoover's letter, Mr. Newell said he never had seen a list of the sort mentioned. He said his information was based on newspaper reports of public statements made last week ago by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

His recollection was that FBI investigations were referred to by the committee in publishing that list. Mr. Newell said.

Mr. Newell's original remarks were included in a report on the deferral in seating of Mrs. Sylvia Wubnick as a delegate from the Kalorama Citizens' Association to the Federation, pending a check of her credentials by a committee of the house.

He had mentioned the League of Women Shoppers, of which Mrs. Wubnick is national legislative representative; the lawyers' group and other organizations as on the questionable list.

Mentioned by Committees. In a compilation prepared by the House Committee on Un-American Activities in May, 1946 the league and the guild appear as having been cited as Communist "fronts" by the committee in March, 1944.

This committee list, which also included citations by the Justice Department, was published in The Star last March, when President Truman issued his Federal employee loyalty check order. At that time, it was pointed out the organizations would not be listed necessarily by the Attorney General under the loyalty order.

Mr. Newell emphasized today he was playing no part in the case of Mrs. Wubnick and had no direct information on it, but had been discussing the Federation's procedure of seating delegates in general.

Jury to Try Man Held
On Exposure Charge

A 36-year-old accountant was held on a charge of indecent exposure today after Municipal Judge John P. McMahon refused to quash his arrest because a policeman entered the man's apartment without a warrant.

The defendant is Edward P. McHugh, 1700 block of N street N.W., an employee of the National Guard Association.

He was arrested about 11:30 o'clock last night in his apartment on the charge of indecent exposure. The school report said it was "unfortunate" these sentences were included because they touch on a religious subject on which people would differ strongly but any bad effect is overshadowed by the whole-some tone of the rest of the 10 pages about religious topics.

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Your Once-a-Year Chance

The Psalms of David bring comfort to Isaac Kaplan and his wife Greta.

Isaac came to America in 1939. He and his first wife Rebecca, left their cattle farm in Poland near the Russian border as the Nazi persecution of the Jews reached toward them.

They came to Washington, where their son already had found peace and freedom from oppression. They settled down to work and save money to send for their four daughters and two sons still in the Old Country. Isaac became a sexton in a synagogue.

Then came the partition of Poland and the Nazi invasion. Rebecca shuddered at each new report of terror, thinking of her own children. No word came of them. Rebecca grew more and more frail, and then Isaac was left a widower. Two years later his son here died.

Isaac had found another helpmate in Greta, also from the Old Country. They made their own way until Isaac suffered a heart attack. He had to give up his job. His sickness took their savings. There was no one to whom they could go.

Friends thought of the Hebrew Home for the Aged. There Isaac and Greta could be together, go regularly to the synagogue at the home, have the Kosher food they loved. Isaac could have the medical care he needed.

Because the people of Washington support the home through the Community Chest its doors were open to Isaac and Greta. This is only one

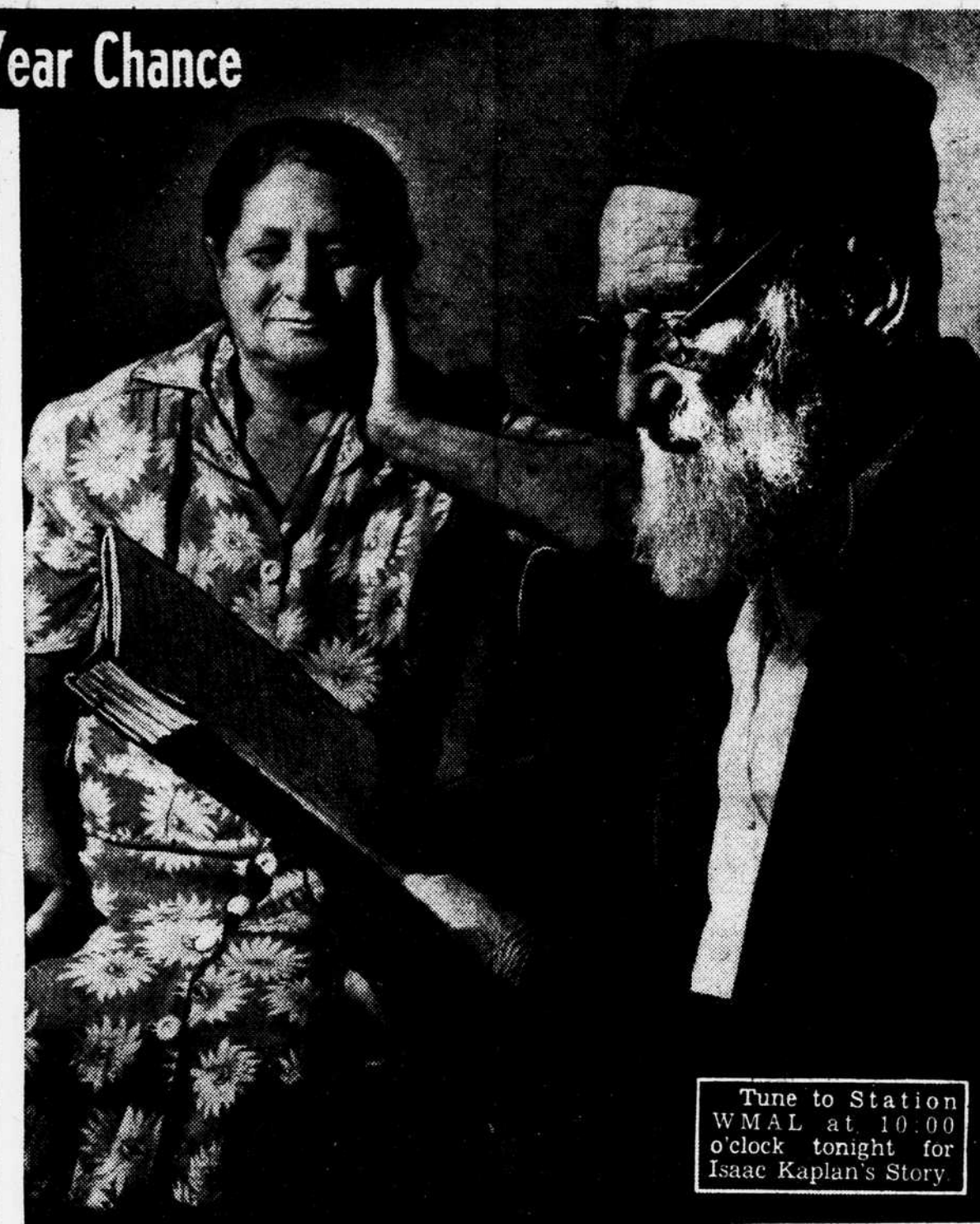
of the many human services you make possible through

your Chest contribution. Now

is your once-a-year chance to

support them all by a single gift.

—Star Staff Photo.



Tune to Station
WMAL at 10.00
o'clock tonight for
Isaac Kaplan's Story

Assembly Gets 18 Bills Affecting Montgomery and Prince Georges

By a Staff Correspondent of The Star

ANNAPOLIS, Nov. 6.—The General Assembly has before it 18 bills affecting Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties.

The measures were among approximately 77 introduced yesterday at the opening of the Legislature's annual session.

Nine of the 18 deal with Montgomery County. They include two submitted in an effort to solve the financial difficulties of Suburban Hospital, Bethesda. One would authorize the County Commissioners to purchase and operate the hospital and the other would empower the commissioners to appropriate not more than \$50,000 as a grant to the institution. The remaining seven Montgomery bills would:

1. Increase the borrowing power of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to \$1,200,000 from \$1,000,000 for the purchase of park lands in Montgomery County. Final authority in the question of extending the park system would be vested in the county commissioners.

2. Authorize Takoma Park officials to borrow up to \$200,000 for capital improvements.

3. Authorize the County Commissioners to increase the fire tax in the 22d precinct of the 13th election district from 6 to 10 cents per \$100.

4. Repeal an obsolete act dealing with the Takoma Park fire Commission.

5. Permit the County Commissioners to pay banks 5 cents for each tax bill they accept.

6. Empower the County Commissioners to increase salaries of deputy sheriffs, now fixed by law.

7. Increase the Laytonville tax rate from 10 to a maximum of 35 cents per \$100.

Carnegie Hall to Hear
Miss Ramona Nevros

Miss Ramona Nevros, 21-year-old lyric soprano, of 733 Otis place N.W., will sing Saturday at Carnegie Hall in New York. She was the winner last January of a Washington Open Guild contest held at the Mayflower Hotel.

The concert is sponsored by the Associated Concert Bureau. Miss Nevros came to Washington from Philadelphia in 1943.

The first agencies being polled are the smaller ones, with the larger departments to be tabulated within several months.

Initial results show that some employees' opinions of their superiors are none too flattering. Although the Government employees' survey is willing to accept more responsibility in your job for the same pay?

Surprisingly enough, the answer was "yes" in nearly all the cases. Which should effectively nail the casual worker in a private company who is willing to accept more responsibility in your job for the same pay?

Congress May Limit Number On Permanent U. S. Employees

By Joseph Young

Congress next year will give serious attention to the possibility of placing a ceiling on the number of permanent-status employees in the Government.

Those members of Congress favoring the move say that this is the only way to reduce sizably the Federal payroll.

To support their argument, they point out that the number of permanent-status employees today, already exceeds the prewar total. Before the war permanent-status employees numbered about 650,000. Today the figure is well over 1,000,000, and there are hundreds of thousands of war service jobs that the Civil Service Commission still has to convert to a permanent basis.

Limiting the number of permanent-status employees will force the Government to get down to an employment figure approximating prewar levels, these members feel. The ceiling favored by some is about 1,000,000.

The annual Government employment turnover due to death, resignations and retirements is about 30,000, and consequently the Government could make that many permanent appointments a year without increasing Federal employment.

On the other side of the picture, Federal officials contend that limiting the number of permanent employees would seriously cripple agency activities. They say that Government services and activities have increased since prewar days and consequently more employees are needed. It's unfair to try and limit Federal employment to the standard of prewar days, they contend.

It's a hot issue right now and there is apt to be a bitter fight on the subject when Congress convenes for its regular session next January.

CENSUS BEGINS.—The Senate Civil Service Committee has begun its census among Government employees to find out what they think about their jobs, their colleagues, their bosses and their opinions on how Government efficiency can be increased.

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Subcommittee Sees Office-Seeker Barrier In \$2,400 Council Pay

If the District is given home rule, members of its city council should not be paid so much as to attract "professional office seekers," the Auchincloss subcommittee of the House said today.

The subcommittee has proposed a \$2,400-a-year "honorarium" for councilmen. The one elected mayor, or council president, would have a \$5,000 expense account.

Meanwhile, the home rule question came up at President Truman's press conference but he refused to comment, saying he had not yet seen the report, which was made public Sunday.

Difficult Decision Seen. A supplemental statement from the subcommittee said it was difficult to decide how much an elective officer should be paid, but added: "The compensation should not be so low that the position is held only at a financial sacrifice. This would restrict such positions to persons of independent means."

"Neither should the compensation be so high as to attract professional office seekers. Service in local government in an elective position or on boards or commissions is a civic duty and should be approached as such."

"Local government is the foundation of American democracy and sacrifices of time, effort and leisure are sacrifices in the cause."

\$25,000 City Manager. Under the tentative plan outlined by the Auchincloss subcommittee of the House District Committee, a city manager would be paid up to \$25,000 a year.

Members of an elected Board of Public Education, succeeding the present school and library boards, would be paid a maximum of \$250 a year, with the president drawing up to \$375 a year. The board would have two superintendents, one to administer the schools system and one for the libraries.

McReynolds Apartments
Rent Increase Approved

District Rent Examiner James G. Tyson today recommended a 6.8 per cent average rent increase for 240 units in the McReynolds Apartments, 705 Eighteenth street N.W.

The G. and R. Corp., owner of the property, pleaded increased costs and taxes as well as substantial capital improvement in asking for a rent increase amounting to \$17,868 per year, or 15.2 per cent. The increase was recommended by Mr. Tyson, after examination, totals \$8,025 per year.

On the new scale, rents in the building would range from \$26.75 to \$69.50 per month. They now go from \$25 to \$65.

The rent examiner's recommendation will be put into effect by Robert F. Cogswell, rent control administrator, in 10 days unless there is an appeal by tenants or the owner.

Army Medical Consultants
Hold Conference Here

Co-operation between civilian and Army doctors to give American soldiers "the best medical care in the world" was pledged by more than 100 Army medical consultants yesterday in a conference at the Army Medical Center.

The doctors came here for the second annual convention of the Society of United States Medical Consultants of World War II.

Secretary of the Army Royal cited World War II statistics to show that improved medical and surgical techniques gave this country's casualties a better chance of recovery than ever before.

"The spirit of service," he said, "is as necessary in peace as in war. We must have maximum utilization of manpower and no waste of talent if we are to realize the ultimate possibility in this leading human science."

The Army Secretary was introduced by Dr. Walter Bauer, of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, president of the society.

Bunch Inquest Legality Put Up To City Counsel

West's Opinion Asked;
Further Action to
Hinge on Decision

Further official action in the death of John Forrest Bunch hinged today on an opinion of Corporation Counsel Vernon E. West as to whether inquest proceedings in the case of the 64-year-old carpenter were legal.

Deputy Coroner Christopher J. Murphy said a transcript of yesterday's brief reopening of the Bunch inquest had been sent to Mr. West with a request for his views as to whether it and the original hearing were conducted in proper order. The initial inquest, August 13, held Mr. Bunch's death in Chalmers Hospital August 4 was accidental, caused by cerebral hemorrhages induced by shock in a fall before he was arrested by police. Mr. Bunch was taken to the hospital from the ninth police precinct station, where he was being held on a drunkenness charge.

Relatives Opposed Verdict. Yesterday's reopening of the inquest, ordered by Dr. Murphy on request of United States Attorney George Morris Fay, was the climax of an effort by the Bunch family to have the original coroner's jury verdict set aside. The relatives had insisted they believed police mistreatment or negligence might have contributed to Mr. Bunch's death.

It was John R. Fitzpatrick, attorney for the family, however, who brought about an abrupt end to the hearing yesterday before any of the witnesses could be called. He objected on grounds that the coroner's jury had not been sworn properly over the body of Mr. Bunch, that one of the jurors was over the age and that the jury was discharged on handing down its verdict and could not be recalled.

Although the legality of the inquest was defended strongly by Assistant United States Attorney John W. Bunch and Assistant Corporation Counsel Milton D. Korman, Mr. Murphy adjourned the inquest, saying he would not proceed until a ruling had been made in "the Federal courts."

Seeks West's Opinion. Although saying at first that further action was up to the attorneys concerned, Dr. Murphy had said in opinion from Mr. West would be sought.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said he had no immediate plans for further steps, having said his objections and made his position clear.

Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Korman indicated they thought it still was the coroner's move. Mr. Korman said he could not say, immediately, if there were any practical method of getting a court determination of the objections raised by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Dr. Murphy said the jury was sworn in properly August 4, and the reference to the August 13 swearing was a clerical error in the official record.

Age Requirement Denied. Dr. Murphy said there was no age requirement for members of coroner's juries. Mr. Fitzpatrick had argued they were bound by the qualifications prescribed for court jurors.

As to reopening an inquest before the original jury, Dr. Murphy said his information was not conclusive, so he wanted Mr. West's opinion.

Meanwhile, as the inquest phase of the case was in abeyance, these other phases also remained undecided.

1. The study of the case by Mr. Fay, the report on which has not been made public. (Mr. Fay stated, in a letter requesting yesterday's inquest, that he might submit all facts in his hands to the grand jury, irrespective of the final verdict of the coroner's jury, if he decided this move was justified.)

2. The Justice Department investigation, sought by the Bunch family and conducted with the assistance of FBI agents, the report on which also has not been made public.

Bond Set for Youth Charged
With Enticing Girls Into Car

Municipal Court Judge Armond Scott today criticized an attorney for attempting to minimize the damage done by an 8-year-old youth who enticed 15-year-old girls into his car by impersonating a policeman. He ordered the youth held under \$1,500 bond.

The boy was arrested last night near the Senator Theater in the 2000 block of Wisconsin avenue S.E., on complaint of the theater manager, who said he saw the boy persuade the two girls to leave the theater and get into his car. The girls told police later that the boy had told them that he was a detective and wanted to question them. After they got into the car, he made advances to them, they said.

When the attorney assigned by the court to defend the boy asked that bond be set as low as possible, since no harm had been done. Judge Scott retorted that as much harm had been done to the young girls as if they had been seriously injured.

He ordered the boy held under \$500 bond on the assault charge for jury trial December 12, and under \$1,000 additional bond for action of the grand jury on the charge of impersonating an officer.

Bladensburg Man Fined
As Owner of Gaming Club

Nathan Davis, 42, colored, 4200 block of Forty-eighth street, Bladensburg, arrested by Prince Georges County police as the operator of a club where slot machines were in operation, was fined \$100 yesterday in Prince Georges County Circuit Court. Uppur Marlboro, on a charge of setting up a gaming table.

Davis was apprehended with 19 others in a raid on the Bladensburg Athletic Club in the 4300 block of Forty-eighth street October 11. He was one of seven persons indicted on gambling charges by the county grand jury without a preliminary hearing.

Nine men and eight women arrested in the raid have forfeited collateral. Two persons were held as State witnesses.